

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE

RESEARCH POLICIES COUNCIL  
Minutes of 14 October 2010

**Members present:** Chris Coryn, Sime Curkovic, Lin Foulk, Gene Freudenburg, Carrie Leatherman, Dan Litynski, Lisa Minnick, Vladimir Risukhin, Mary Ann Stark, Stephen Tasko, Steven Ziebarth

Chair Steven Ziebarth called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes of 9 September 2010**

The following correction was made to the minutes of 9 September 2010:

The following paragraph was substituted under Faculty Research and Creative Activities Support Fund Allocations: Evans made a motion that for fiscal year 2010-11, the budget for FRACAA be increased to \$200,000; SFSA be decreased to \$50,000; the Faculty Research Travel Fund be maintained at \$205,000, with \$850 maximum per trip, and Preparation and Publication of Papers and Exhibition of Creative Works (PPP&E) be maintained at \$10,000. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Minnick and seconded by Stark to approve the amended minutes of 9 September 2010. Motion passed.

**Agenda for 14 October 2010**

The agenda was accepted.

**Reports of Officers**

*Office for Vice President for Research – Daniel Litynski*

The web-based bucksheet will hopefully be unveiled on Monday, 18 October. Litynski distributed a list of workshops in various buildings on campus to help researchers learn about the new system.

Research and Dessert will take place on 22 October from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Fetzer Center.

The workshops with guest speaker David Bauer have been taking place this week. Most have been well attended.

Litynski distributed an update of External Funding Submission and Awards. The Office of the Vice President for Research is using Elsevier to track citations to WMU researchers in scientific journals. This is so OVPR can see what areas of the university are the most productive and provide support to the strongest areas. The council asked what OVPR is doing to track productivity in the arts and Litynski welcomes ideas to better track artistic activity. The new faculty lines that

will be created each year (starting this year) will be allocated by the provost and tied to the needs of the university and specific research areas (some of which have been influenced by Elsevier data).

Several Bernhard Center display cases are currently devoted to faculty research on campus.

*Graduate College Office – Gene Freudenburg, Interim Dean*

Graduate enrollment has increased 2 percent—in the neighborhood of 5,100 graduate students, which indicates continued enrollment increases.

The Graduate College is offering workshops for graduate students on statistics, writing, and formatting for dissertations. The office is working to streamline the dissertation formatting process.

The Higher Learning Commission will be on campus next week and his meeting with HLC is Tuesday morning, 19 October.

The Graduate College is hosting a Professional School and Graduate Programs Fair with Kalamazoo College representatives on 20 October. See the Graduate College website for more information.

The Graduate College Review Committee is completing phase 1 and moving into phase 2.

Freudenburg distributed “Commentary on Data Released for National Research Council’s (NRC) Assessment of Research-Doctorate Programs in the U. S.” More information may be found on the NRC website.

*Council Chair – Steven Ziebarth*

Ziebarth thanked the Support for Faculty Scholar Award (SFSA) committee members for their work in reviewing the proposals earlier today.

**Continued Business**

*Support for Faculty Scholar Award (SFSA) Report – Steven Ziebarth*

Thirteen proposals were submitted and seven were funded. Colleges in which faculty members received funding include: Business, Arts and Sciences, Fine Arts, and Engineering and Applied Sciences. Two proposals were extended PPP&E. Award letters will go out next week to those who were funded. Letters with comments will be sent to those who were not successful in this round of SFSA.

*Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award (FRACAA) Chair Appointment –  
Steven Ziebarth*

The RPC Executive Committee has been working with OVPR and Steve Bertman from Chemistry has agreed to serve as the new FRACAA Chair. Ziebarth will invite him to attend the next RPC meeting. Bertman will either serve in the at-large position (currently served by Coryn) or RPC would like to propose an amendment to Article VI, Section 1 of the Faculty Senate Bylaws to formally make the FRACAA Chair a permanent member of RPC. Ziebarth will work with Faculty Senate President Peter Krawutschke to propose this policy change.

An additional \$10,000 has been generously given by President John Dunn for FRACAA. Ziebarth will send a thank you letter to President Dunn on behalf of the RPC. Any funds not spent on SFSA will be moved to FRACAA.

*RPC Events for Upcoming Year*

See below.

**New Business**

*2010-11 Council Charges*

5<sup>th</sup>-Annual Research Day–Coryn and Stark will co-chair the committee to organize this year's event. It was very successful last year. Associate deans offer nominations for research that is presented that day.

**Adjournment**

Tasko made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lin Foulk, College of Fine Arts Representative for RPC